

LIFE SAVING VICTORIA

Aquatic Safety Signage Assessment

Wodonga Creek Activation Project



Acknowledgement of Country

Life Saving Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and waterways where our activities take place. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

The authors gratefully acknowledge the volunteer and community members, government entities and aquatic industry agencies that provided feedback via surveys, interviews, and focus group sessions.

Suggested citation

Life Saving Victoria – Signage Assessment – Wodonga Creek Activation Project

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Executive summary

This report details the outcomes of an Aquatic Safety Signage Assessment (Signage Assessment) at locations within the Wodonga creek Activation Project area. The waterways included in the project scope vary in terms of their physical characteristics, accessibility, usage, existing hazards, as well as the state of their current signage.

The assessment identifies discrepancies and non-compliances associated with the existing signage and provides recommendations for improvement in accordance with Australian and International Standards. Some locations display clear and uniform signage, whilst others are inconsistent, deteriorated/damaged, or missing.

Ensuring the effective review and implementation of consistent aquatic safety signage at planned access locations is vital for public safety. The recommendations in this report represent a comprehensive strategy for establishing a standardised, effective, and compliant signage system.

- **Naming conventions:** Ensure consistency in displaying waterway names and sub-names according to the SLSA Beachsafe and VicMap databases, inclusive of any local names.
- **Risk based hierarchy:** Safe conditions warning, prohibition, mandatory action and safety information is presented in a manner that prioritises the anticipated risk rating.
- **Emergency markers:** Engage in collaboration with Triple Zero Victoria (formally ESTA) to explore the integration of emergency markers on signage and the removal of EBANs.
- **User journey model:** Target primary (e.g., car park) and secondary (e.g., walkway) access points to inform users of warning, prohibition, mandatory action, and safety information.
- **Consistency:** Ensure a consistent approach to the overall layout and specific content, including the supervision of children and lifesaving services to improve effectiveness.
- **QR Codes:** Consider a consistent approach to the use of QR codes to direct users to accurate safety information (e.g., BeachSafe) and signage information in different languages.
- **Council By-Laws:** Capture accurate information regarding local by-law requirements and ensure separation from safety-related advice, without overshadowing safety information.
- **Outdated/competing signage:** Remove old, damaged, and/or competing signage. Where required incorporate key/new messages (e.g., lifejacket usage) into new safety signage.

This assessment recommends several changes to signage. Location specific details can be found in the body of the assessment and information on design elements in the appendices.

Signage summary	
Area	Waterway/environment name/signage quantity
Lincoln Causeway / Diamond Creek Park	X8
Stock route reserve North	X2
Stock Route reserve South	X2

Introduction

About Life Saving Victoria

Life Saving Victoria Limited (LSV) is a public company limited by guarantee and was formed in 2002 through the merger of Surf Life Saving Victoria and the Royal Life Saving Society Australia - Victoria Branch.

As the Victorian peak body for water safety, LSV is:

- A recognised emergency service, under Emergency Management legislation.
- A registered training organisation with the Australian Skills Quality Authority.
- A state sports association representing extensive affiliated members.
- A registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.
- Endorsed for deductible gift recipient status with the Australian Taxation Office.

LSV's purpose is to save lives and empower communities to safely enjoy water.

LSV's vision is "Together preventing drowning. Together thriving around water".

This vision reflects a shared responsibility for water safety and a commitment to enabling safe, positive participation across Victoria's aquatic environments. LSV will achieve this through strong and effective partnerships with its members, communities, education providers, governments, and other organisations in the provision of advocacy, education, training, health promotion, aquatic risk management, community development, research, leadership and participation, underpinned by a cohesive and sustainable organisation.

LSV was engaged to complete this Aquatic Safety Signage Assessment to assist the provision of safer aquatic environments for community members and visitors, and to assist the landowner/landowners and management representatives in profiling and treating their risk exposure with the aim of protecting value within the organisation.

The remainder of this document is the outcome of that engagement. LSV hope that this document can provide the foundation of, not just a compliant system of aquatic safety, but one that assists with the continual improvement and refinement of a safety culture and way of working.

Unless stated otherwise, all images/excerpts are the property of LSV.

Assumptions

This Signage Assessment assumes the following conditions:

- All signs are visible and legible from a reasonable distance.
- Signs are made from durable materials that can withstand local environmental conditions.
- The signs are placed in locations that are easily accessible and visible to the public.
- Emergency and safety signs are in line with current Australian and/or International Standards and recognised water safety/drowning prevention guidelines.
- The assessment assumes that the signage will be maintained and updated as required by the responsible parties.

Disclaimer

This Signage Assessment has been produced by LSV in consultation with the client and aims to provide targeted guidance, advice, and recommendations on water safety signage. While LSV are subject matter experts and exercise care in the compilation of this document, it is not intended to be a substitute for legal or other professional advice and should not be relied upon as such.

The assessment is based on LSV's understanding of relevant statutory requirements, Australian and International Standards, and associated literature/guidelines at the time of the assessment. The recommendations are designed to help the responsible parties achieve a safe level of operation, to the level deemed reasonably practical. However, the ultimate responsibility for the implementation and maintenance of the signage lies with the landowners, managers, or other responsible parties.

Aim and objectives

This Signage Assessment aims to provide a systematic framework for the evaluation and recommendation of aquatic safety signage at specified locations. The assessment should be conducted collaboratively, drawing on the knowledge and expertise of various stakeholders, and using the best available information.

The document has the following additional objectives:

- To assess the current state of aquatic safety signage and its compliance with Australian and/or International Standards.
- To identify any gaps or deficiencies in the existing safety signage.
- To provide specific recommendations for improving safety signage to enhance public safety.
- To support adherence to existing regulatory, compliance, and industry best practice obligations.
- To contribute to the overall safety and wellbeing of community members and visitors engaging in aquatic activities.

This document should be reviewed systematically or following significant changes to the environment, regulations, or following a major incident. It should also be considered a live document, subject to updates and revisions, as necessary.

Scope

LSV was commissioned by Woodward to undertake an Aquatic Safety Signage Assessment (Signage Assessment). This report is limited to the placement, style, and possible hazards that can be ascertained at the time based off design plans and site images provided. The reassessment of signage requirements could be necessary upon changes in the aquatic environment, i.e. upgrades to existing infrastructure, changes to the local environment over time, new equipment, variations in water depth, and following an incident.

The Signage Assessment process provides guiding recommendations only and is representative of LSV's opinion in relation to water safety signage. The appropriate parties such as the service operators, landowners/land managers, and local government risk consultants should determine how signage recommendations are to be implemented in line with the risk management processes.

The pictures and diagrams represented in this document are intended to provide information on the content and layout of the relevant signage. They are not detailed, or to scale.

This Signage Assessment applies to the following aquatic environment locations:

Aquatic Environment Profile	
Location	Scope
Wodonga Creek Activation Project	<p>Construction of new pathways, playgrounds and water access points along the Wodonga Creek</p> <p>Documents:</p> <p>LANDSCAPE PLAN - DIAMOND PARK SHT 1</p> <p>LANDSCAPE PLAN - DIAMOND PARK SHT 2</p> <p>LANDSCAPE PLAN - DIAMOND PARK SHT 3</p> <p>LANDSCAPE PLAN - DIAMOND PARK SHT 4</p> <p>SURFACES AND FINISHES – PLAYGROUND</p> <p>GRADING AND LEVELS PLAN – PLAYGROUND</p> <p>PLANTING PLAN – PLAYGROUND</p> <p>DETAIL PLAN - ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND</p> <p>DETAIL PLAN - LITTLE KIDS PLAYGROUND</p> <p>DETAILED LAYOUT PLAN - WATER PLAY</p> <p>LANDSCAPE PLAN: STOCK ROUTE RESERVE STH – 2</p> <p>LANDSCAPE PLAN: STOCK ROUTE RESERVE NTH – 1</p> <p>LANDSCAPE PLAN: STOCK ROUTE RESERVE NTH - 2</p>

The information within this document has been included as guidance material only and needs to be systematically monitored and reviewed as a component of the recognised risk management process (ISO 31000:2018, Guidelines - Risk Management).

Stakeholders

Consultation was made with the following stakeholders and communication and consultation are built into the development of this Signage Assessment. Further to the existing stakeholder consultations underpinning this Signage Assessment, it is recommended that the landowner and/or manager actively seek the involvement of other land managers or landowners in the region. Their unique insights and operational perspectives can significantly contribute to the comprehensive development and refinement of the signage strategy.

LSV initially provides a draft version of this Signage Assessment for review, enabling key stakeholders to add comments/feedback and/or suggest alterations in an open and consultative manner. Following the review period, a final report is provided.

On completion, the client is provided with editable versions of the documentation to enable future review, development, and application.

Stakeholders		
Name	Organisation	Role/s
Shannon Leahy	Woodward	Civil Engineer / Project Manager (Head of Authority)
John Forrest	Woodward	Associate (Responsible)
TBC	Wodonga Council	Informed
TBC	North East Water	Informed
Clare Keogh-Daves	Life Saving Victoria	Specialist – Aquatic Industry Services (Assessor)
Clare Keogh-Daves	Life Saving Victoria	Specialist – Aquatic Industry Services (Reviewer)
Alek Olszewski	Life Saving Victoria	Senior Manager – Aquatic Industry Services (Subject Matter Expert)

Document Control

This Signage Assessment should be preserved in its complete form to prevent any sections from being misplaced or lost, as incomplete versions could lead to confusion regarding responsibilities and actions. The document is scheduled for review on an annual basis, specifically ahead of the summer season when aquatic activities are most prevalent.

Additional reviews will be triggered by various factors including, but not limited to, changes in legislation, updates to regulations, modifications to the Australian/International Standards, alterations in equipment or the environment, and shifts in policy, procedure, or process. Reviews will also be conducted in response to new insights gained from incidents, audits, and other reporting mechanisms.

Continual improvement is not only possible but actively encouraged. This encompasses all facets of safety signage, ranging from design and placement process to public engagement and effectiveness. Lessons may also be drawn from testing and evaluating the signage in real-world scenarios, as well as from the implementation of safety measures or improvements. Any initiatives or decisions arising from this continual improvement process should be meticulously documented. This will contribute to the ongoing enhancement of risk management strategies concerning safety signage.

In the event of any changes or amendments to this Signage Assessment, all previous versions must be archived for record-keeping purposes. Furthermore, all stakeholders and interested parties should be promptly notified of the updated document to ensure alignment and compliance.

By adhering to this document control protocol, we aim to maintain the highest standards of accuracy, relevance, and effectiveness in our aquatic safety signage assessment efforts.

Document Summary	
Provision	Detail
Location Name	Wodonga Creek
Landowner/s	Crown Land
Land manager/s	Wodonga Council / North-East Water
Primary Contact	Shannon Leahy - Woodward
Project Location/s	Wodonga Creek Activation Project
Date Provided (Draft)	18 th February 2026
Date Provided (Final)	TBC
Review Period	Annual

Document Management

This Signage Assessment is a managed document. For identification of amendments, each document contains an issue date and a version number. Changes will only be issued as a complete replacement document. Recipients should remove superseded versions from circulation.

Document History			
Version	Detail	Author	Authorising Person
Draft	Draft	C. Keogh-Davies	A. Olszewski

Document Distribution

This document distribution register captures the details of the individual stakeholders that have been directly provided with a copy of this Signage Assessment. The document distribution register relates only to the distribution of the most current version of the document, as detailed in the Stakeholder and Document Control sections.

The Signage Assessment shall be available to all relevant staff, contractors and volunteers working within the development project.

Document Distribution		
Name	Organisation	Date
Shannon Leahy	Woodward	
John Forrest	Woodward	
Clare Keogh-Daves	Life Saving Victoria	
Callum Hazell	Life Saving Victoria	
Alek Olszewski	Life Saving Victoria	

Introduction to signage

Signs are intended to perform the function of imparting information to the public that would otherwise require the presence of a staff member, volunteer or similar. Appropriate signage should allow a person to make an informed decision about accessing / utilising an aquatic environment.

Signage and the law

In legal terms, the provision of appropriate signage is crucial because it informs individuals of potential risks and hazards in a given environment. Courts typically view signage to fulfill the duty of care owed by landowners or managers. By displaying clear and relevant information, such as warnings about deep water, environmental conditions, or safety guidelines, signage helps individuals make informed decisions about their actions. If a person chooses to proceed despite the warnings and subsequently suffers harm, the presence of adequate signage can serve as evidence that the duty of care was met.

It is important that all aquatic environment users understand the risks and, equally important, the need to take care of their own welfare and be aware of the environment they are in. Signs should never take away the responsibility that members of the public and other visitors have for their own actions and subsequent safety.

However, for safety signage to effectively fulfill this role, it must be carefully designed, placed in visible locations, and relevant to the specific risks present. This ensures that individuals have a reasonable opportunity to understand the dangers and make informed choices accordingly. Failure to provide appropriate signage could potentially lead to liability if it is determined that the risk was foreseeable and adequate precautions, including signage, were not taken. Therefore, the law emphasizes the importance of signage as a tool for risk communication and to mitigate liability by demonstrating proactive steps to ensure safety.

Under Australian Health and Safety legislation, employers and managers of aquatic facilities and/or aquatic environments are mandated to provide effective signage that clearly communicates safety information to all stakeholders, including employees, contractors, visitors, and the public. This responsibility extends to ensuring that signage is prominently displayed, easily understandable, and utilises universally recognised symbols, colours, and language.

For employers, this means communicating potential hazards, mandatory actions, emergency procedures, and safety precautions through signage to mitigate risks in the workplace. Similarly, for landowners and managers, and owners and operators of aquatic facilities, clear signage is crucial for informing the public about hazards, safety guidelines, rules, emergency procedures, and other essential information necessary for safe interaction with the environment.

Effective safety signage management involves comprehensive planning, implementation, and ongoing maintenance. It requires regular inspections to ensure signs remain visible, legible, and in good condition. This proactive approach not only enhances safety but also demonstrates compliance with legal obligations to provide a safe environment for all individuals interacting with the aquatic facility or waterway. By regularly updating and maintaining signage, landowners/managers and operators can effectively mitigate risks and promote a culture of safety in these environments.

Signage Assessment

An LSV Aquatic Safety Signage Assessments establishes both current compliance levels and additional requirements of an aquatic environment's signage. As an objective risk treatment measure signage is regularly scrutinised following serious aquatic incidents.

This type of assessment can audit the signage associated with the:

- area access
- aquatic spaces/features
- new and/or existing design components
- emergency response

LSV can design, manufacture and deliver signage to ensure full compliance with Australian/International Standards, in partnership with key stakeholders.

Appropriate parties such as the service operators, landowners, land managers and local government risk consultants should determine how signage recommendations are to be implemented.

Limitations

The level of responsibility that LSV accepts when engaged to manufacture safety signage, is limited to the supply of the safety signage recommended in the associated Signage Assessment. This includes the signage symbol, layout, colour and production material.

LSV are unable to take responsibility for any installations that fail to comply with the associated International/Australian Standards or alternative documents listed in the reference section. This includes but is not limited to:

- Signage which fails to suitably reflect the intended risk.
- Signage which fails to clearly provide the intended message.
- Incorrect signage (text, numeral, symbol) dimensions.
- Incorrect signage content selection.
- Insufficient quantity of signage.
- Insufficient viewing distance provisions.
- Incorrect installation of signage.
- Insufficient maintenance or review of signage.

Water safety overview

Signage and drowning prevention

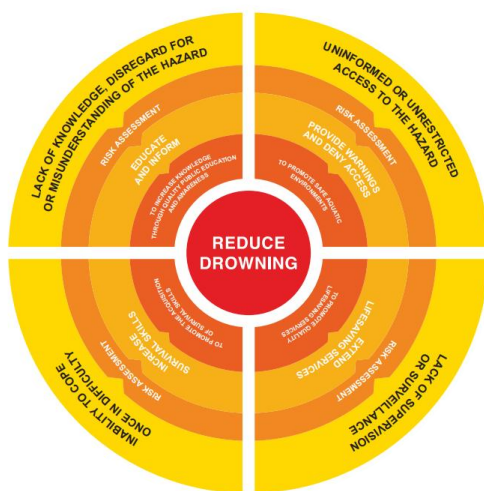
The Victorian and Australian Water Safety Strategies consider the ‘Drowning prevention strategy’ developed by the International Lifesaving Federation. This strategy has the objective to reduce drowning deaths in the aquatic environment for nations/regions engaged in lifesaving.

A key component of the drowning prevention strategy is the “drowning prevention chain” which identifies four causal factors, that acting alone, or in any combination, can lead to death or injury by drowning. The four causal factors are:

1. Lack of knowledge, disregard for or misunderstanding of the hazard
2. Uninformed or unrestricted access to the hazard
3. Lack of supervision or surveillance
4. Inability to cope once in difficulty

Each causal factor has corresponding drowning prevention strategies and control measures that can reduce death or injury by drowning. The four drowning prevention strategies are:

1. Educate and inform
2. Provide warnings and deny access
3. Extend lifesaving services
4. Increase survival skills



CAUSAL FACTORS	DROWNING PREVENTION STRATEGIES	CONTROL MEASURES
1. Lack of knowledge, disregard for or misunderstanding of the hazard.	Educate and inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education • Arrival education
2. Uninformed or unrestricted access to the hazard.	Provide warnings and deny access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage access • Safety signage • Activity management
3. Lack of supervision and surveillance	Extend lifesaving services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained observers • Carer supervision • Lifeguard services and emergency response capacity • Remote monitoring
4. Inability to cope once in difficulty	Increase survival skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education • Emergency communications • Public Rescue Equipment

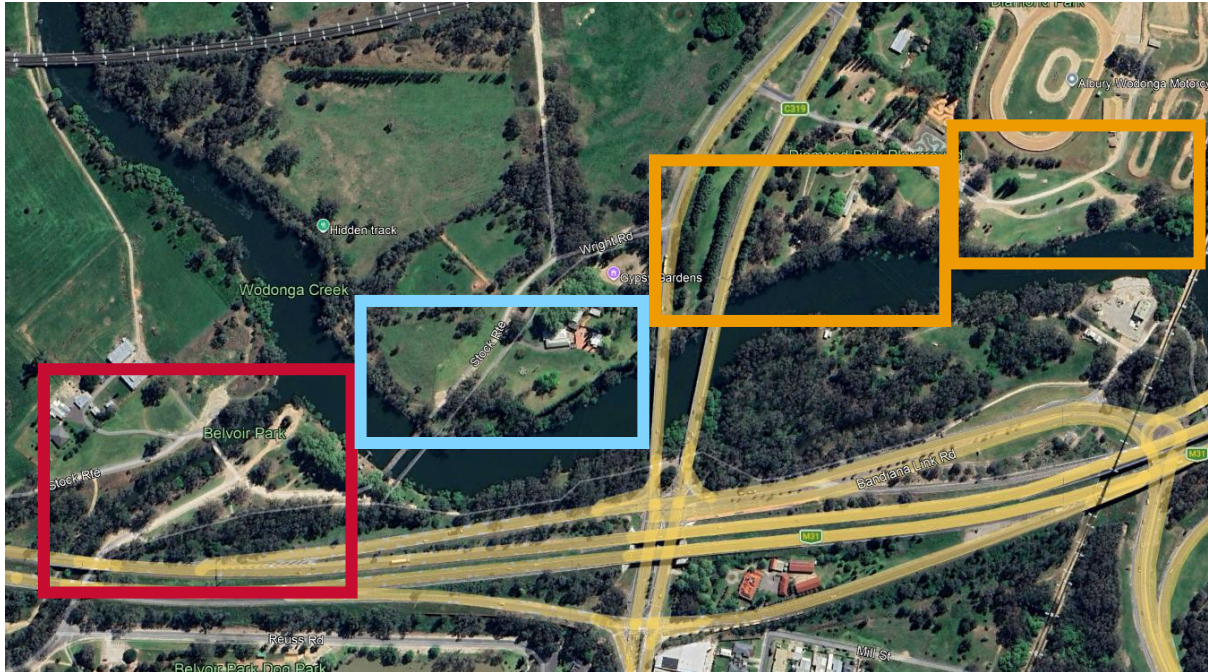
Image/figure source: Drowning prevention strategy (International Lifesaving Federation, 2015).

Safety signage contributes to each of the four prevention strategies in the drowning prevention chain. Signage is directly a key component of both the ‘educate and inform’ and ‘provide warnings and deny access’ strategy categories.

Safety signage also contributes directly and indirectly to the ‘extend lifesaving services’ and ‘increase survival skills’ categories, through the inclusion of information identifying lifesaving service locations and patrol season details, as well as information on measures such as emergency response and public rescue equipment.

Stock Route South:

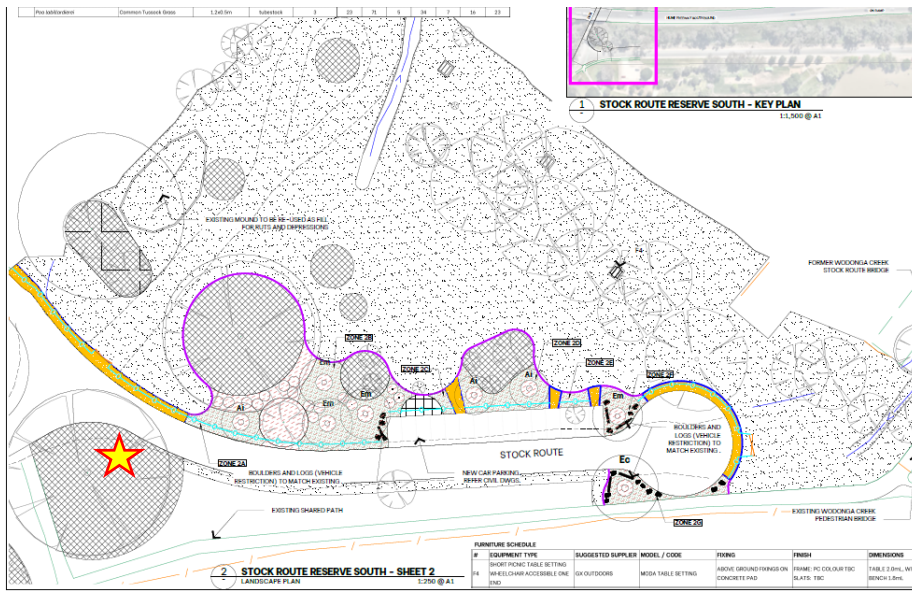
Assessment area



Image/figure source: Google Earth (Google, 2024).

Key Waterway Information			
Name	Type	Risk rating	Length
Wodonga Creek	Creek (Stock Route South - RED)	Refer to risk assessment	TBC

Sign Ref: Wodonga Creek Stock Route South (1)



Existing Signage

Content: N/A
Condition: N/A
Compliance: N/A

Notes

Recommended to place carpark signage at this location

Location Information

Location sub-name (Current): N/A
Longitude: TBC
Latitude: TBC
Sign type: Primary Carpark

Technical Specification

Viewing distance: 6m
Min. symbol size: 100mm
Min. upper case text size: 30mm
Min. lower case text size: 20mm

Warning Inclusions (Recommended)

One: Strong current (W057)
Two: Variable water depth (W066)
Three: Submerged objects (W049)
Four: TBC

Prohibition Inclusions

One: Council to determine
Two: NA
Three: NA
Four: NA

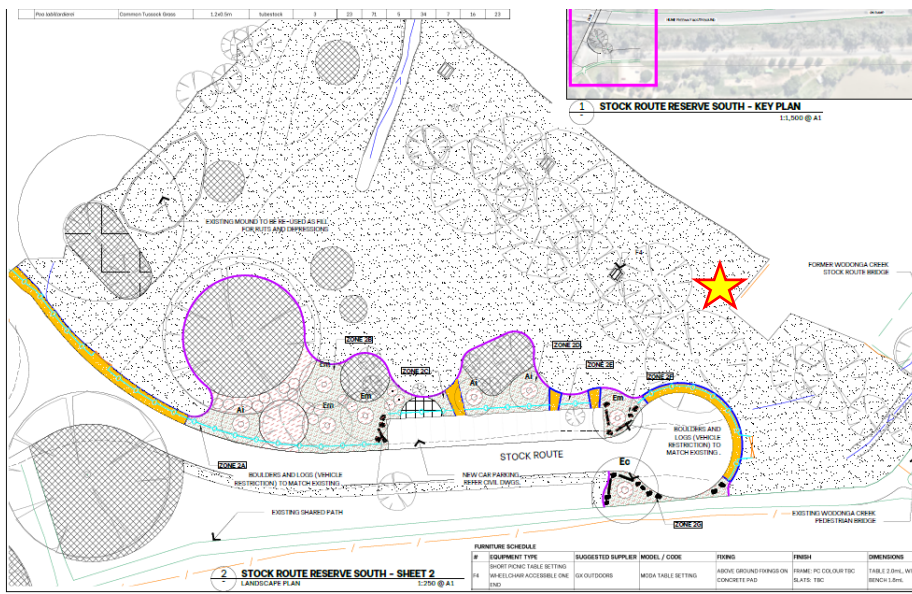
Emergency Information (Current)

Emergency Marker: Not provided.
EBAN Access Marker: Not provided.
Public Access Defib Located at: Not Provided
*It is recommended that an ESTA Emergency Marker is included for this sign

Mandatory Action/Safety (Recommended)

Supervision: Standard (refer Appendix)
QR code: Not provided (refer Appendix)
Other: WSM001 Wear lifejacket

Sign Ref: Wodonga Creek Stock Route South (2)



Existing Signage

Content: N/A

Condition: N/A

Compliance: N/A

Notes

Recommended to place secondary access point signage at this location

Location Information

Location sub-name (Current): N/A

Longitude: TBC

Latitude: TBC

Sign type: Secondary Access

Technical Specification

Viewing distance: 2m

Min. symbol size: 60mm

Min. upper case text size: 20mm

Min. lower case text size: 15mm

Warning Inclusions (Recommended)

One: Boat ramp (WS3)

Two: Strong current (W057)

Three: Variable water depth (W066)

Four: Submerged objects (W049)

Prohibition Inclusions

One: Council to determine

Two: NA

Three: NA

Four: NA

Emergency Information (Current)

Emergency Marker: Not provided.

EBAN Access Marker: Not provided.

Public Access Defib Located at: Not Provided

*It is recommended that an ESTA Emergency Marker is included for this sign

Mandatory Action/Safety (Recommended)

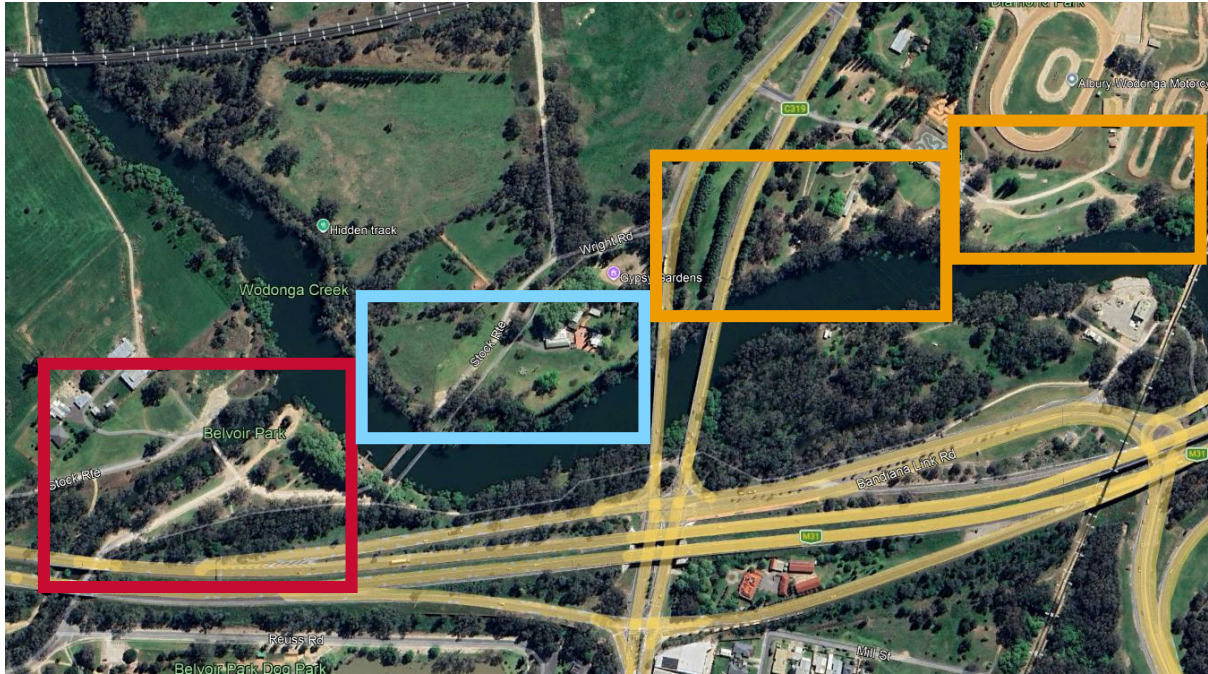
Supervision: Standard (refer Appendix)

QR code: Not provided (refer Appendix)

Other: WSM001 Wear lifejacket

Stock Route North:

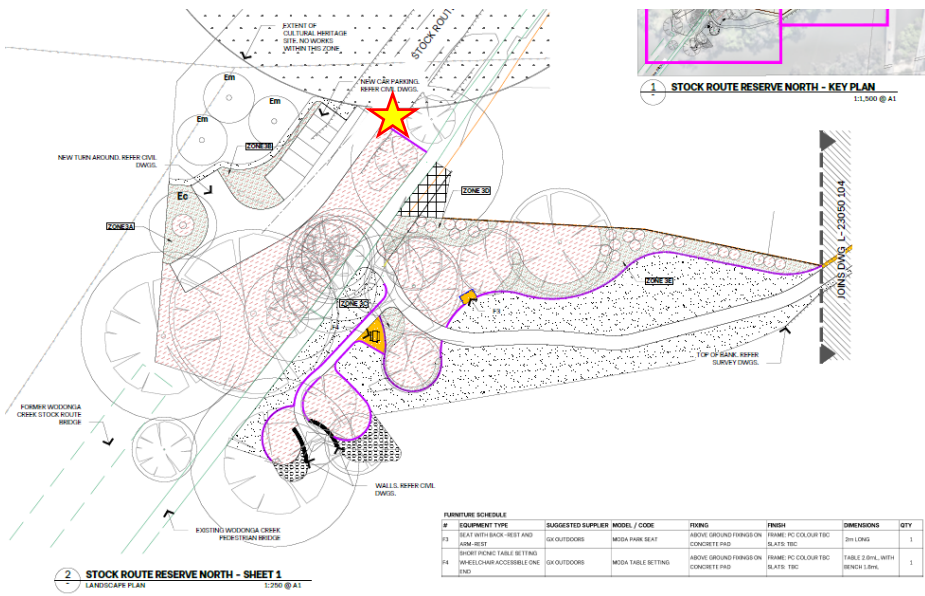
Assessment area



Image/figure source: Google Earth (Google, 2024).

Key Waterway Information			
Name	Type	Risk rating	Length
Wodonga Creek	Creek (Stock Route North - BLUE)	Refer to risk assessment	TBC

Sign Ref: Wodonga Creek Stock Route North (1)



Existing Signage

Content: N/A
 Condition: N/A
 Compliance: N/A

Notes

Recommended to place carpark signage at this location

Location Information

Location sub-name (Current): N/A
 Longitude: TBC
 Latitude: TBC
 Sign type: Primary Carpark

Technical Specification

Viewing distance: 6m
 Min. symbol size: 100mm
 Min. upper case text size: 30mm
 Min. lower case text size: 20mm

Warning Inclusions (Recommended)

One: Strong current (W057)
 Two: Variable water depth (W066)
 Three: Submerged objects (W049)
 Four: TBC

Prohibition Inclusions

One: Council to determine
 Two: NA
 Three: NA
 Four: NA

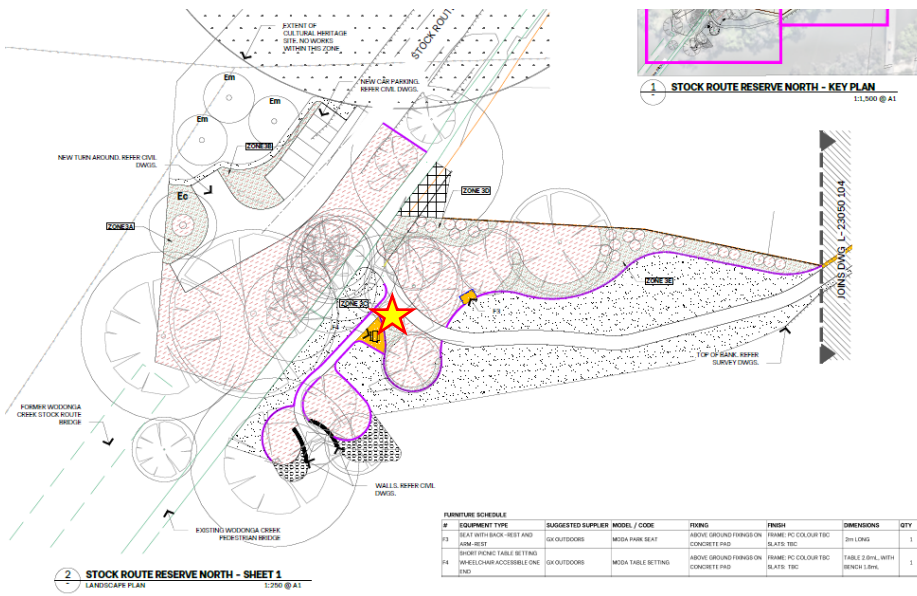
Emergency Information (Current)

Emergency Marker: Not provided.
 EBAN Access Marker: Not provided.
 Public Access Defib Located at: Not Provided
 *It is recommended that an ESTA Emergency Marker is included for this sign

Mandatory Action/Safety (Recommended)

Supervision: Standard (refer Appendix)
 QR code: Not provided (refer Appendix)
 Other: WSM001 Wear lifejacket

Sign Ref: Wodonga Creek Stock Route North (2)



Existing Signage

Content: N/A
Condition: N/A
Compliance: N/A

Notes

Recommended to place secondary access point signage at this location

Location Information

Location sub-name (Current): N/A
Longitude: TBC
Latitude: TBC
Sign type: Secondary Access

Technical Specification

Viewing distance: 6m
Min. symbol size: 100mm
Min. upper case text size: 30mm
Min. lower case text size: 20mm

Warning Inclusions (Recommended)

One: Boat ramp (WS3)
Two: Strong current (W057)
Three: Variable water depth (W066)
Four: Submerged objects (W049)

Prohibition Inclusions

One: Council to determine
Two: NA
Three: NA
Four: NA

Emergency Information (Current)

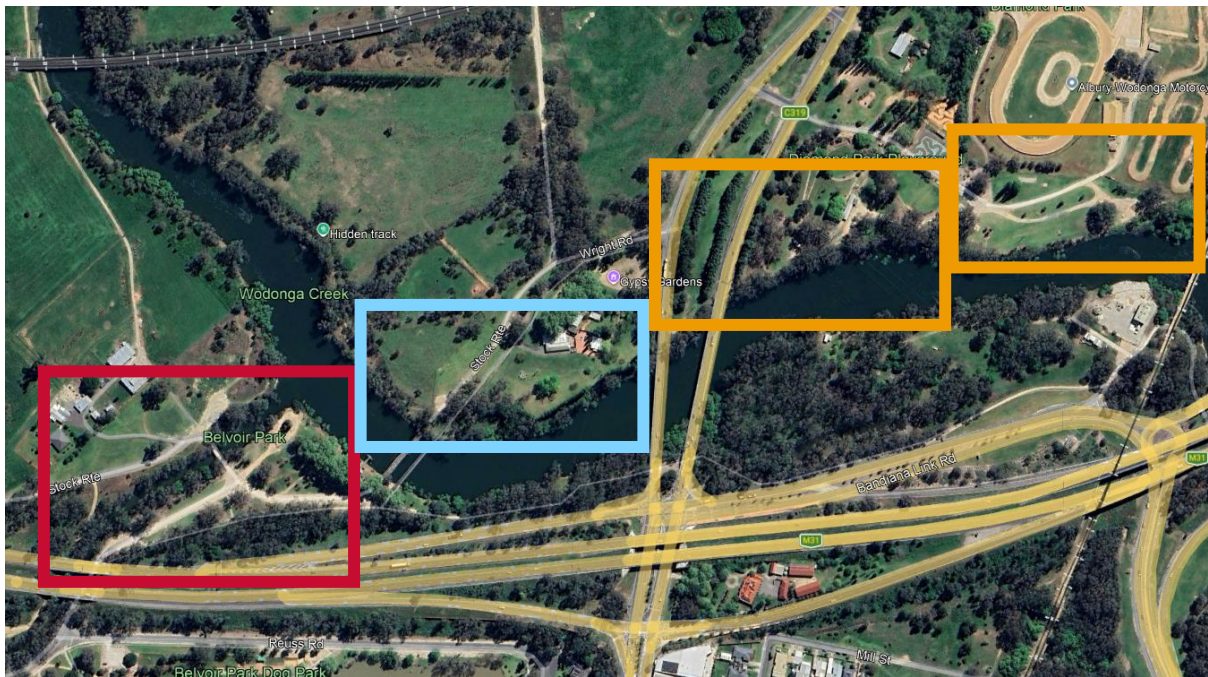
Emergency Marker: Not provided.
EBAN Access Marker: Not provided.
Public Access Defib Located at: Not Provided
*It is recommended that an ESTA Emergency Marker is included for this sign

Mandatory Action/Safety (Recommended)

Supervision: Standard (refer Appendix)
QR code: Not provided (refer Appendix)
Other: WSM001 Wear lifejacket

Lincoln Causeway/Diamond Park:

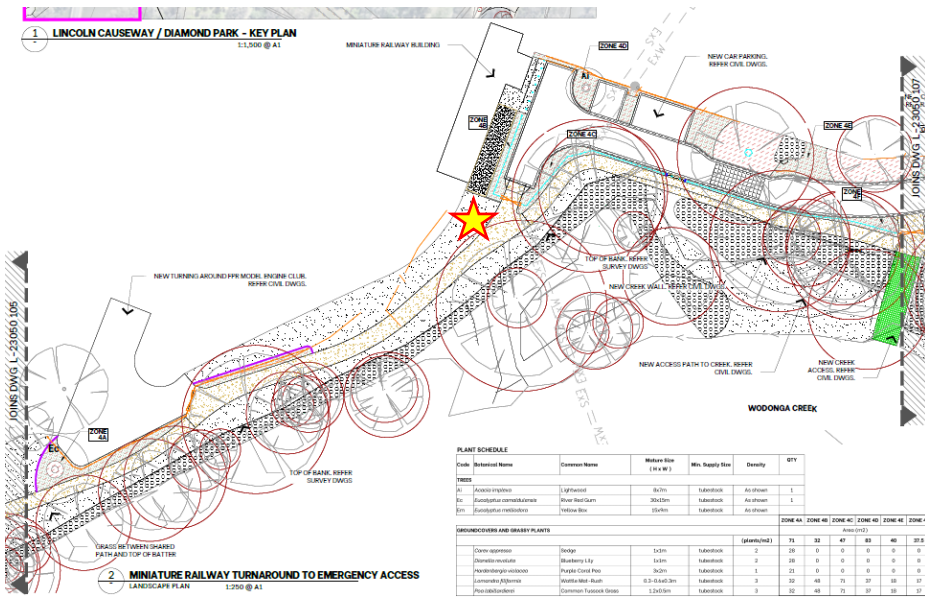
Assessment area



Image/figure source: Google Earth (Google, 2024).

Key Waterway Information			
Name	Type	Risk rating	Length
Wodonga Creek	Creek (Lincoln Causeway/Diamond Park – YELLOW)	Refer to risk assessment	TBC

Sign Ref: Wodonga Creek Diamond Park (1)



Existing Signage

Content: N/A
 Condition: N/A
 Compliance: N/A

Notes

Recommended to place secondary access point signage at this location

Location Information

Location sub-name (Current): N/A
 Longitude: TBC
 Latitude: TBC
 Sign type: Secondary Access

Technical Specification

Viewing distance: 2m
 Min. symbol size: 60mm
 Min. upper case text size: 20mm
 Min. lower case text size: 15mm

Warning Inclusions (Recommended)

One: Strong current (W057)
 Two: Variable water depth (W066)
 Three: Submerged objects (W049)
 Four: TBC

Prohibition Inclusions

One: Council to determine
 Two: NA
 Three: NA
 Four: NA

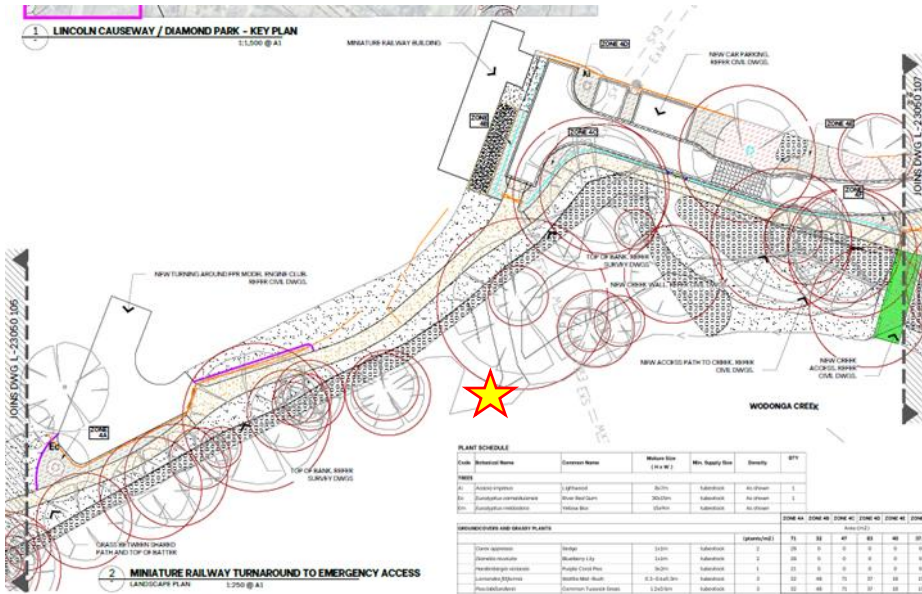
Emergency Information (Current)

Emergency Marker: Not provided.
 EBAN Access Marker: Not provided.
 Public Access Defib Located at: Not Provided
 *It is recommended that an ESTA Emergency Marker is included for this sign

Mandatory Action/Safety (Recommended)

Supervision: Standard (refer Appendix)
 QR code: Not provided (refer Appendix)
 Other: WSM001 Wear lifejacket

Sign Ref: Wodonga Creek Diamond Park (2)



Existing Signage

Content: N/A
Condition: N/A
Compliance: N/A

Notes

Recommended to place defined hazard signage at this location

Location Information

Location sub-name (Current): Wodonga Creek Weir
Longitude: TBC
Latitude: TBC
Sign type: Defined hazard

Viewing distance: 4m

Min. symbol size: 70mm

Min. upper case text size: 20mm

Min. lower case text size: 15mm

Warning Inclusions (Recommended)

One: Slippery Rocks (W011)
Two: Variable water depth (W066)
Three: N/A
Four: N/A

Prohibition Inclusions

One: NA
Two: NA
Three: NA
Four: NA

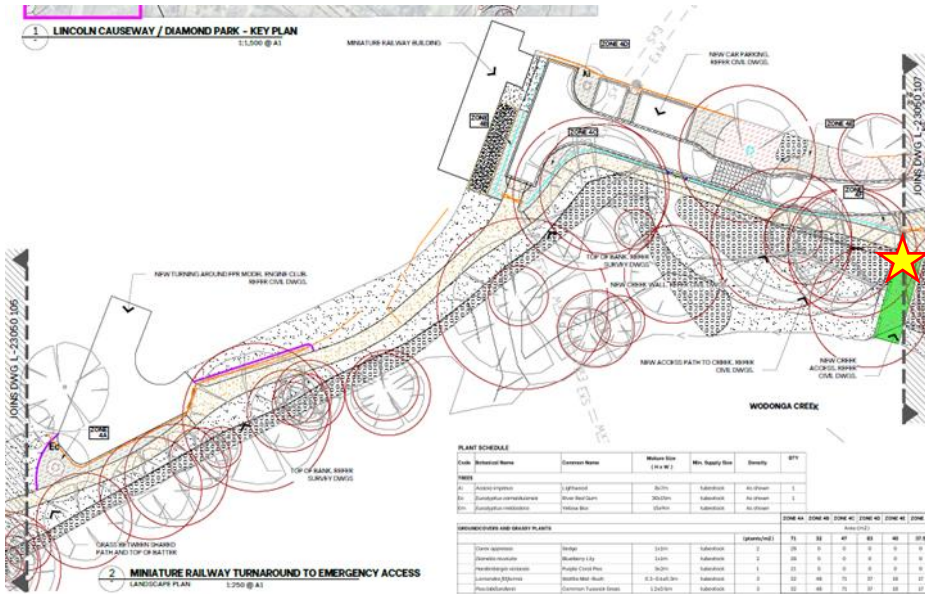
Emergency Information (Current)

Emergency Marker: NA
EBAN Access Marker: NA
Distance to club: NA
Rescue equipment: NA

Mandatory Action/Safety (Recommended)

Lifesaving services: NA
Supervision: NA
QR code: NA
Other: NA

Sign Ref: Wodonga Creek Diamond Park (3)



Existing Signage

Content: N/A
 Condition: N/A
 Compliance: N/A

Notes

Recommended to place secondary access point signage at this location

Location Information

Location sub-name (Current): N/A
 Longitude: TBC
 Latitude: TBC
 Sign type: Secondary Access

Technical Specification

Viewing distance: 2m
 Min. symbol size: 60mm
 Min. upper case text size: 20mm
 Min. lower case text size: 15mm

Warning Inclusions (Recommended)

- One: Boat ramp (WS3)
- Two: Strong current (W057)
- Three: Variable water depth (W066)
- Four: Submerged objects (W049)

Prohibition Inclusions

- One: Council to determine
- Two: NA
- Three: NA
- Four: NA

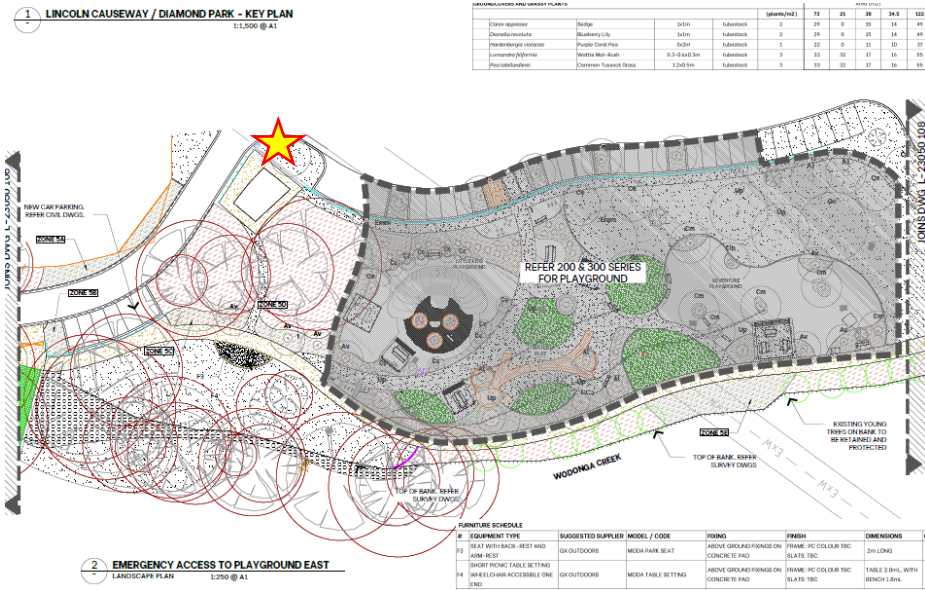
Emergency Information (Current)

Emergency Marker: Not provided.
 EBAN Access Marker: Not provided.
 Public Access Defib Located at: Not Provided
 *It is recommended that an ESTA Emergency Marker is included for this sign

Mandatory Action/Safety (Recommended)

Supervision: Standard (refer Appendix)
 QR code: Not provided (refer Appendix)
 Other: WSM001 Wear lifejacket

Sign Ref: Wodonga Creek Diamond Park (4)



Existing Signage

Content: N/A

Condition: N/A

Compliance: N/A

Notes

Recommended to place carpark signage at this location

Location Information

Location sub-name (Current): N/A

Longitude: TBC

Latitude: TBC

Sign type: Primary Carpark

Technical Specification

Viewing distance: 6m

Min. symbol size: 100mm

Min. upper case text size: 30mm

Min. lower case text size: 20mm

Warning Inclusions (Recommended)

One: Strong current (W057)

Two: Variable water depth (W066)

Three: Submerged objects (W049)

Four: TBC

Prohibition Inclusions

One: Council to determine

Two: NA

Three: NA

Four: NA

Emergency Information (Current)

Emergency Marker: Not provided.

EBAN Access Marker: Not provided.

Public Access Defib Located at: Not Provided

*It is recommended that an ESTA Emergency Marker is included for this sign

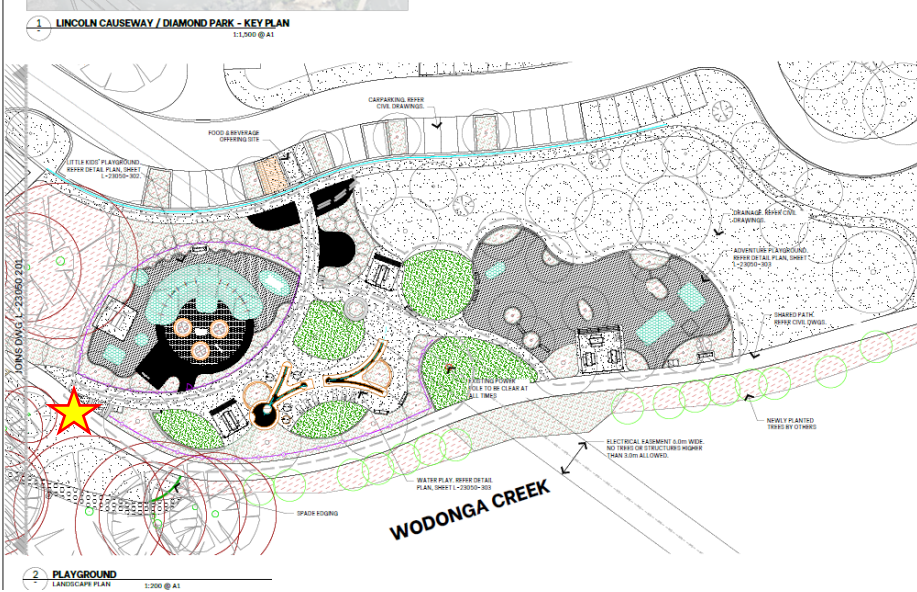
Mandatory Action/Safety (Recommended)

Supervision: Standard (refer Appendix)

QR code: Not provided (refer Appendix)

Other: WSM001 Wear lifejacket

Sign Ref: Wodonga Creek Diamond Park (5)



Existing Signage

Content: N/A
 Condition: N/A
 Compliance: N/A

Notes

Recommended to place secondary access point signage at this location

Location Information

Location sub-name (Current): N/A
 Longitude: TBC
 Latitude: TBC
 Sign type: Secondary Access

Technical Specification

Viewing distance: 2m
 Min. symbol size: 60mm
 Min. upper case text size: 20mm
 Min. lower case text size: 15mm

Warning Inclusions (Recommended)

One: Strong current (W057)
 Two: Variable water depth (W066)
 Three: Submerged objects (W049)
 Four: TBC

Prohibition Inclusions

One: Council to determine
 Two: NA
 Three: NA
 Four: NA

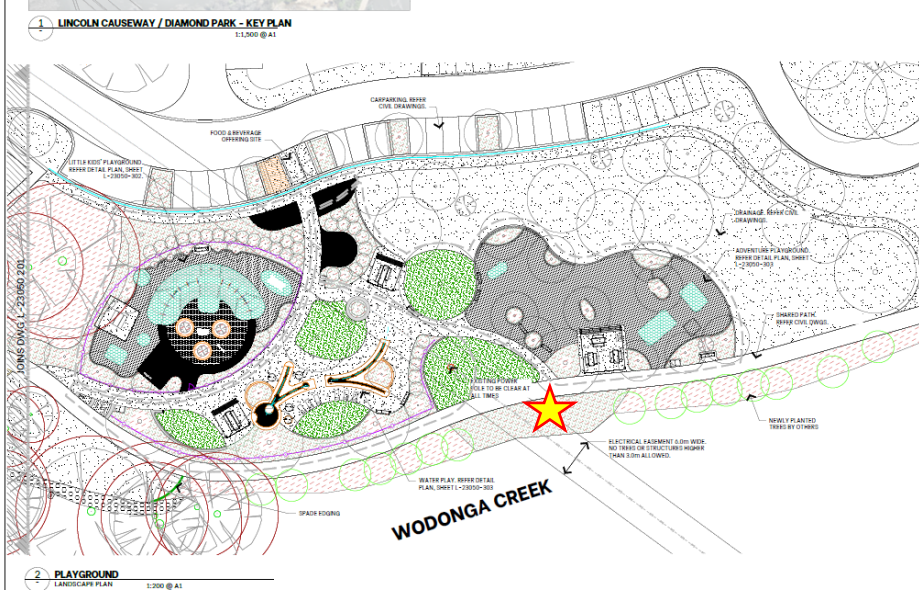
Emergency Information (Current)

Emergency Marker: Not provided.
 EBAN Access Marker: Not provided.
 Public Access Defib Located at: Not Provided
 *It is recommended that an ESTA Emergency Marker is included for this sign

Mandatory Action/Safety (Recommended)

Supervision: Standard (refer Appendix)
 QR code: Not provided (refer Appendix)
 Other: WSM001 Wear lifejacket

Sign Ref: Wodonga Creek Diamond Park (6)



Existing Signage

Content: N/A
Condition: N/A
Compliance: N/A

Notes

Recommended to place secondary access point signage at this location

Location Information

Location sub-name (Current): N/A
Longitude: TBC
Latitude: TBC
Sign type: Secondary Access

Technical Specification

Viewing distance: 2m
Min. symbol size: 60mm
Min. upper case text size: 20mm
Min. lower case text size: 15mm

Warning Inclusions (Recommended)

One: Strong current (W057)
Two: Variable water depth (W066)
Three: Submerged objects (W049)
Four: TBC

Prohibition Inclusions

One: Council to determine
Two: NA
Three: NA
Four: NA

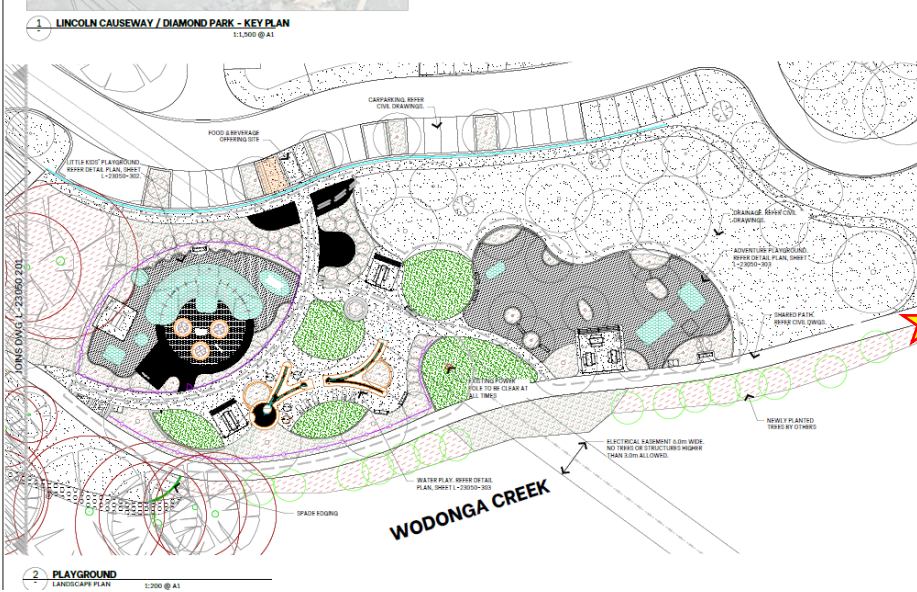
Emergency Information (Current)

Emergency Marker: Not provided.
EBAN Access Marker: Not provided.
Public Access Defib Located at: Not Provided
*It is recommended that an ESTA Emergency Marker is included for this sign

Mandatory Action/Safety (Recommended)

Supervision: Standard (refer Appendix)
QR code: Not provided (refer Appendix)
Other: WSM001 Wear lifejacket

Sign Ref: Wodonga Creek Diamond Park (7)



Existing Signage

Content: N/A
Condition: N/A
Compliance: N/A

Notes

Recommended to place secondary access point signage at this location

Location Information

Location sub-name (Current): N/A
Longitude: TBC
Latitude: TBC
Sign type: Secondary Access

Technical Specification

Viewing distance: 2m
Min. symbol size: 60mm
Min. upper case text size: 20mm
Min. lower case text size: 15mm

Warning Inclusions (Recommended)

One: Strong current (W057)
Two: Variable water depth (W066)
Three: Submerged objects (W049)
Four: TBC

Prohibition Inclusions

One: Council to determine
Two: NA
Three: NA
Four: NA

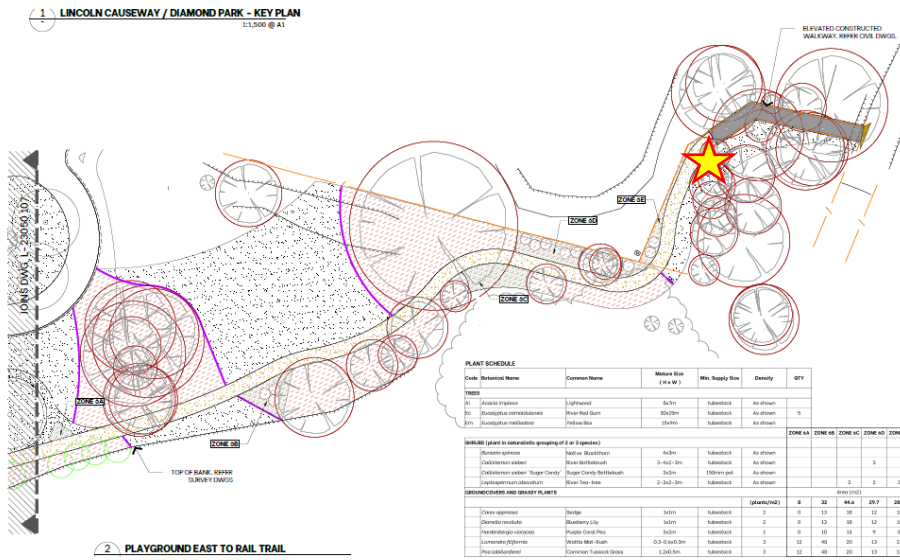
Emergency Information (Current)

Emergency Marker: Not provided.
EBAN Access Marker: Not provided.
Public Access Defib Located at: Not Provided
*It is recommended that an ESTA Emergency Marker is included for this sign

Mandatory Action/Safety (Recommended)

Supervision: Standard (refer Appendix)
QR code: Not provided (refer Appendix)
Other: WSM001 Wear lifejacket

Sign Ref: Wodonga Creek Diamond Park (8)



Existing Signage

Content: N/A
Condition: N/A
Compliance: N/A

Notes

Recommended to place secondary access point signage at this location

Location Information

Location sub-name (Current): N/A
Longitude: TBC
Latitude: TBC
Sign type: Secondary Access

Technical Specification

Viewing distance: 2m
Min. symbol size: 60mm
Min. upper case text size: 20mm
Min. lower case text size: 15mm

Warning Inclusions (Recommended)

One: Strong current (W057)
Two: Variable water depth (W066)
Three: Submerged objects (W049)
Four: TBC)

Prohibition Inclusions

One: Council to determine
Two: NA
Three: NA
Four: NA

Emergency Information (Current)

Emergency Marker: Not provided.
EBAN Access Marker: Not provided.
Public Access Defib Located at: Not Provided
*It is recommended that an ESTA Emergency Marker is included for this sign

Mandatory Action/Safety (Recommended)

Supervision: Standard (refer Appendix)
QR code: Not provided (refer Appendix)
Other: WSM001 Wear lifejacket

Quote

The below table represents the cost for LSV to manufacture compliant aquatic safety signage, based on the findings and recommendations of this assessment.

The following information and permissions are required prior to manufacture:

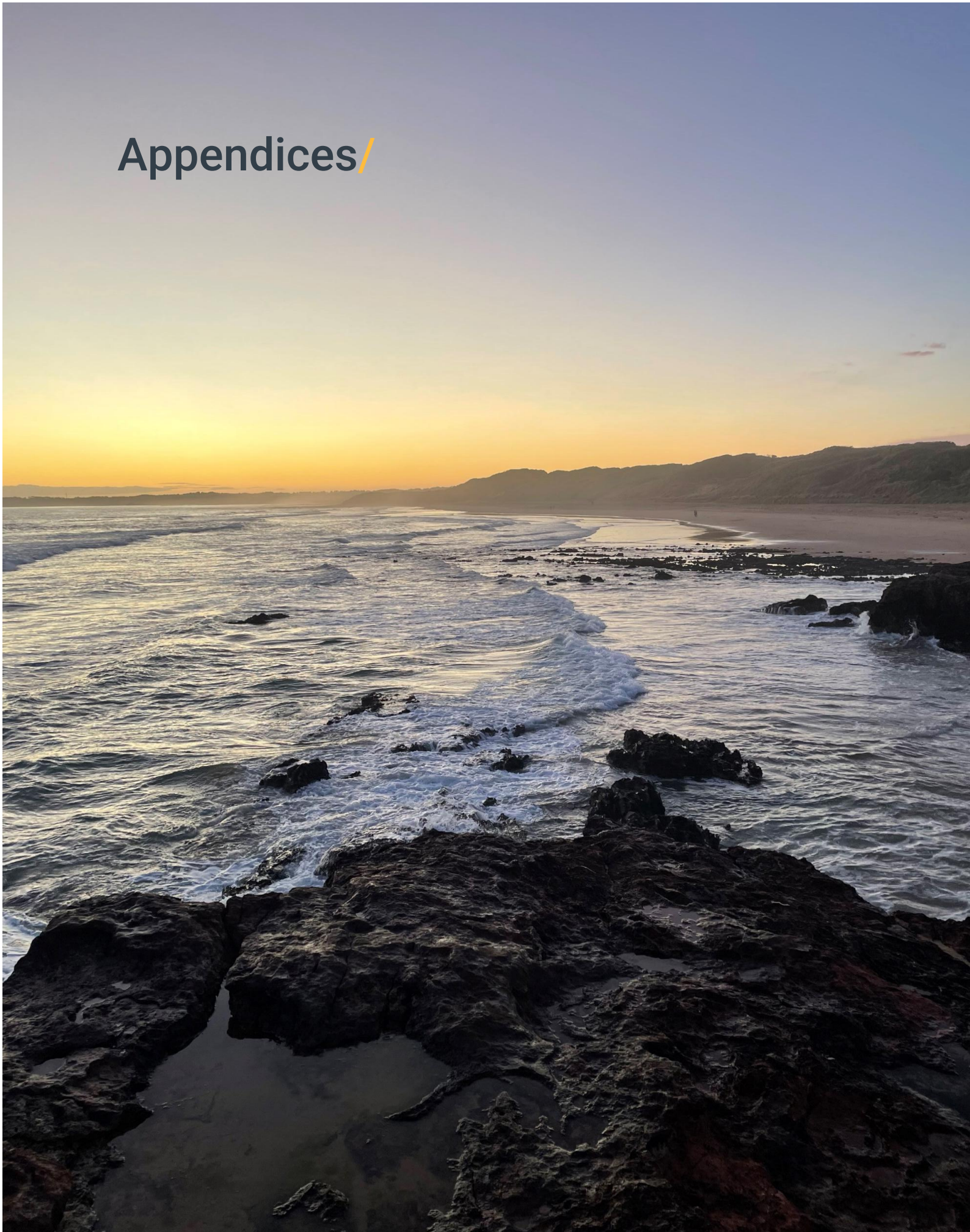
- Review and decisions relating to beach/waterway names, including local naming conventions
- Decisions pertaining to the inclusion of emergency markers
- Information setting out local/Council by-law information
- Overall confirmation and approval of client

Signage quotation			
Reference	Type	Quantity	Total Cost \$
Wodonga Creek Stock Route South (1)	Carpark	X1	\$980.00
Wodonga Creek Stock Route South (2)	Secondary Access (Large)	X1	\$500.00
Wodonga Creek Stock Route North (1)	Carpark	X1	\$980.00
Wodonga Creek Stock Route North (2)	Secondary Access (Large)	X1	\$500.00
Wodonga Creek Diamond Park (1)	Secondary Access (Large)	X1	\$500.00
Wodonga Creek Diamond Park (2)	Defined Hazard	X1	\$280.00
Wodonga Creek Diamond Park (3)	Secondary Access (Small)	X1	\$380.00
Wodonga Creek Diamond Park (4)	Carpark	X1	\$980.00
Wodonga Creek Diamond Park (5)	Secondary Access (Small)	X1	\$380.00
Wodonga Creek Diamond Park (6)	Secondary Access (Small)	X1	\$380.00
Wodonga Creek Diamond Park (7)	Secondary Access (Small)	X1	\$380.00
Wodonga Creek Diamond Park (8)	Secondary Access (Small)	X1	\$380.00
	Total	12	\$6,620

References

- Australian Government: Department of Health and Ageing, (2008). Water Safety Essentials for Local Governments. Australian Water Safety Council, Broadway, Australia.
- International Life Saving, (2015). Drowning Prevention Strategies: A Framework to Reduce Drowning Deaths in the Aquatic Environment for Nations/Regions Engaged in Lifesaving. The International Life Saving Federation. Leuven, Belgium.
- International Organization for Standardization. (2018). ISO 31000 Risk management - Guidelines (pp. 16). Geneva, Switzerland: International Organization for Standardization.
- International Organization for Standardization. (2020). ISO 7010 Graphical Symbols - Safety Colours and Safety Signs - Registered Safety Signs.
- International Organization for Standardization. (2011). ISO 3864-1 Graphical Symbols - Safety Colours and Safety Signs - Part 1: Design Principles for Safety Signs and Safety Markings.
- International Organization for Standardization. (2024). ISO 3864-3 Graphical Symbols - Safety Colours and Safety Signs - Part 3: Design Principles for Graphical Symbols for use in Safety Signs.
- International Organization for Standardization. (2024). ISO 20712-3 Water Safety Signs and Beach Safety Flags - Part 3: Guidance for Use.
- National Health and Medical Research Council, (2008). Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water. Australian Government.
- Short. (1996). Beaches of the Victorian Coast & Port Phillip Bay: A Guide to Their Nature, Characteristics, Surf and Safety. Sydney: Sydney University Press.
- Short & Woodroffe (2009). The Coast of Australia. Melbourne: Cambridge University Press.
- Standards Australia 1319 (2010): Safety Signs for the Occupational Environment.
- State Government of Victoria, Department of Justice: 2006: National Aquatic and Recreational Signage Style Manual - Third edition.
- Surf Life Saving Australia, (2007). Australian Coastal Public Safety Guidelines. Surf Life Saving Australia. Bondi Beach, Australia.
- Victorian Government, (2004). Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004. Victorian Government.
- World Health Organization, (2003). Guidelines for Safe Recreational Water Environments - Coastal and Fresh Waters. World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.

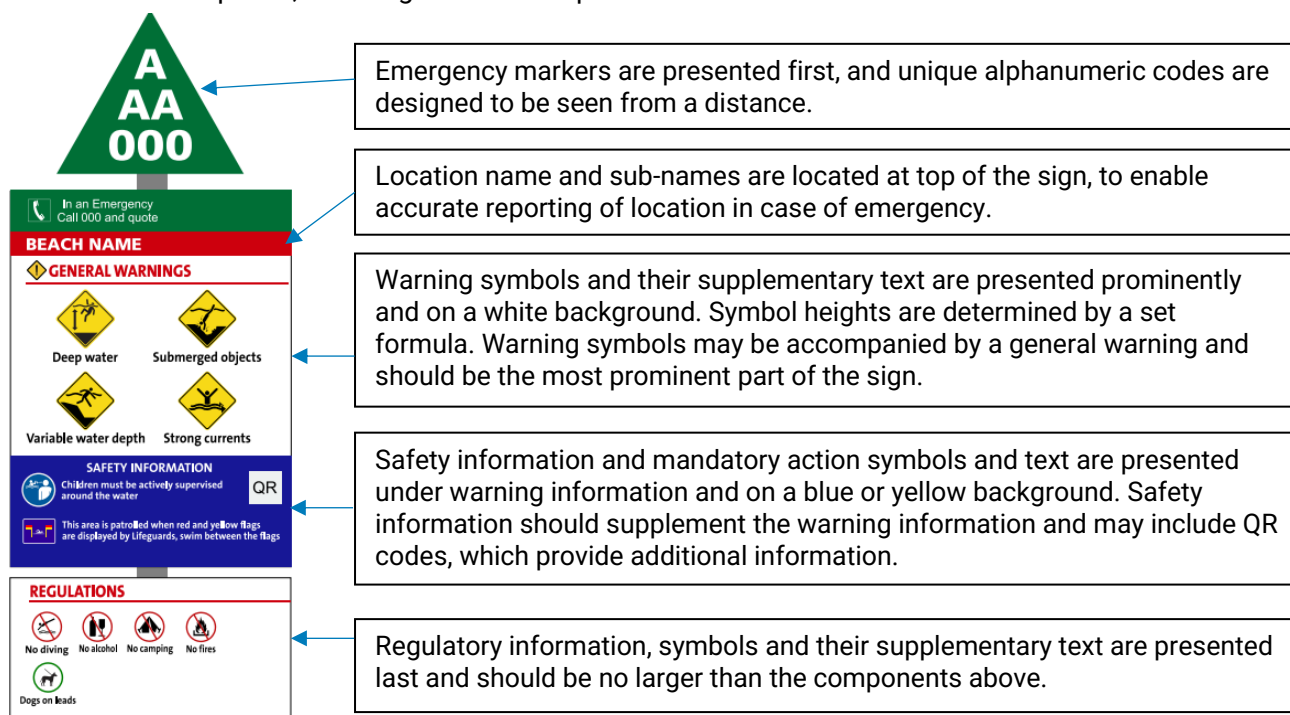
Appendices /



Appendix A Signage specification

i) Risk based hierarchy

It is essential to ensure that aquatic safety information is presented in a manner that prioritises risks based on severity. This allows for a coherent and effective communication strategy that resonates with the public, focusing on the most pertinent hazards.



ii) Naming conventions

To ensure consistent and user-friendly location names and sub-names that cater to both locals and visitors, it is recommended to adhere to the naming conventions outlined by the local and state government database/s. This approach will enhance consistency across various locations and facilitate the ease of locating and identifying these water bodies. Furthermore, the use of common local names should undergo council approval or correct authority process for approval to ensure their appropriateness and suitability.

The adoption of consistent naming conventions is vital for clarity and comprehension. Locals and visitors alike should be able to identify the waterway or aquatic location seamlessly.

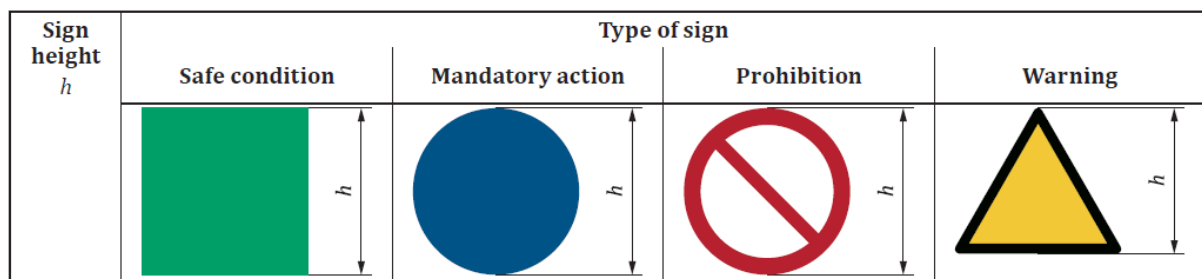
Waterway names and sub-names should be displayed in a consistent manner. Naming conventions are recommended to consider the information contained in the VicMap or SLISA BeachSafe databases (ABSAMP) for consistency. Local and sub-names should also be considered and included where appropriate. Where sub-names or local names are regularly used, they should be provided alongside the recognised names with each local name or sub-name identified and approved by the landowner, considering suitability and appropriateness. Updating VicMap register with local and sub-names is also recommended.

iii) Symbol classifications

The table below provides an overview of categories, shapes and colours employed in safety signage to convey specific information.

Category	Shape	Safety colour	Contrast colour	Symbol colour
Prohibition	Circle	Red	White	Black
Mandatory action	Circle	Blue	White	White
Warning	Triangle*	Yellow	Black	Black
Safe conditions	Square	Green	White	White
Fire safety	Square	Red	White	White

* Where existing signage is provided in a diamond shape, this may be an appropriate approach to ensure consistency and increase information recall and recollection.



Image/figure source: ISO20712-3 (International Organization for Standardization, 2024).

iv) Emergency markers

Triple Zero Victoria Emergency Markers (Emergency Markers) are a vital component of any effective aquatic safety signage system. They should be designed and placed to be easily visible from a distance, offering a clear point of reference in emergencies. Considerations for visibility, colour contrast, and location are critical in this design aspect, where possible the emergency marker should be located either towards the top of the overall sign, to avoid interference / damage and to allow viewing from a distance.

Emergency markers enable Triple Zero Victoria Call taker to immediately and accurately verify the location of an emergency, triple zero ('000') call in public open space. Life Saving Victoria recommends the use of Emergency Markers as a component of safety signage.

The two most important pieces of information required when calling Triple Zero are the location of the emergency (where is it?) and the nature of the emergency (what is it?). Emergency markers aim to improve response times in the event of an emergency triple zero call. They do not eliminate the risk nor will they mitigate the likelihood of event occurring.

The location and placement of emergency markers must not present an obstacle or hazard to users of the environment.

Emergency markers should also:

- Be at least one metre off the edge of any trail and should consider the approach speed and space required to manoeuvre without impeding the pathway for other trail users.
- Should be at least 1.2 to 1.7 metres off the ground emergency markers should be placed where they do not distract the users during high-risk activities i.e., mountain bike riding.
- Obstacles must not obscure the line of sight of the emergency marker. Emergency markers should be placed where their presence does not create a hazard or obscure other hazards.
- Emergency markers should avoid locations where the vegetation or surrounding physical features reduce the emergency markers' impact or line of sight vision.

Reference - [Emergency markers signage guidelines | triplezero.vic.gov.au](https://triplezero.vic.gov.au/emergency-markers-signage-guidelines)

Contact should be made with Triple Zero Victoria to investigate and better understand the viability, options, and benefits of introducing emergency markers in a consistent manner on all new and existing signage.

v) Warning symbols

There is extensive research around the unintended challenges and consequences associated with the over-provision of signage. This challenge is inherent because of the dynamic nature of natural aquatic environments, the complexities of land ownership, aquatic environment operation, concerns over increasing litigation, and increasing water safety awareness.

All aquatic safety signs are recommended to be based on the outcome of a risk assessment as best practice. A component of the risk assessment is to identify, analyse and evaluate the different risks associated with a specific aquatic environment, and generally a risk assessment will identify several risks and treatment measures requiring consideration through safety signs.

It is recommended that there are no more than four warning symbols included in a primary access or secondary access safety sign. Further it is recommended that there are no more than two graphic warning symbols included in an on-site (fixed or mobile) safety sign.

Which graphic warning symbols are included should be based on the outcomes of the location specific risk assessment. They should also consider stakeholder feedback, visible/known hazards and/or hazards identified in the SLSA BeachSafe App or ABSAMP. The display order for the warning symbols (from left to right or top to bottom) should transition from the highest risk to the lowest.

The recommended warnings should be reviewed for appropriateness and the decision on what to include remains with the land manager and should be considered in conjunction with a risk assessment, however it is recommended that the warning signs are consistent for the entire stretch of water and that individual hazard signs are considered if there is a need to call out something in a particular zone or location.

vi) Parental supervision

The inclusion of standard supervision wording promotes the active supervision of children around all waterways. Standard supervision signage for the supervision of children around water is recommended on all safety signage.

The recommended wording is **Children must be actively supervised around the water at all times.**

vii) Lifesaving services

There are several key decisions to be made to ensure a consistent approach to mandatory action and safe conditions signs as well as directional signage. Examples include but are not limited to:

- At what distance do you/do you not refer to the local lifesaving services (e.g. surf lifesaving club). Is identifying a service 50km away relevant and practical or not.
- Whether 'no swimming advised' (where it is necessary to 'discourage' but not 'prohibit' swimming) information should be provided on signage displayed at the entry to unpatrolled beaches.

Providing clear and comprehensive information about lifesaving services is crucial for raising public awareness and ensuring the safety of aquatic activities. It is recommended that where a beach is patrolled, that supplementary text details:

This beach is patrolled when the red and yellow flags are displayed by lifesavers.

Equally significant is effectively communicating when a beach is not patrolled. It is recommended that where a beach is not patrolled, that supplementary text details:

This beach is not patrolled by lifesavers. The nearest patrolled beach is X.

The supplementary text above is recommended to be provided as part of a directional sign which includes the standard 'lifesaving services' image along with a distance and direction to the nearest lifesaving service, including details of patrol dates/times where practicable.

viii) QR codes

A Quick Response (QR) code is a type of barcode that can be read easily by a digital device (e.g., phone/tablet) and which stores information as a series of pixels in a square-shaped grid. In the context of water safety sign, QR codes can act as a bridge between physical signs and digital resources, providing quick access to vital information.

Those attending aquatic environments can scan a QR codes to receive real-time updates on conditions, access to key resources, details on emergency services information and guidance to assist in the interpretation and understanding on safety signs, such as the provision of signs in different languages. This empowers locals and visitors to make informed decisions about their safety while enjoying aquatic environments in an effective, low cost and sustainable way.

It is recommended that consideration is given to the introduction of QR codes into new and existing signs. These unique barcodes should direct users to a location where current, reliable and accurate information is available .

It is suggested that for beach environments that QR codes should relay the user back to the BeachSafe website (<https://beachsafe.org.au/>) in the first instance, unless a more appropriate alternative is already available. Alternative solutions are required for inland waterway locations where no single central information repository is available.

ix) Council by-laws

Local Government Authorities (Councils) use local laws to respond to issues and community needs within a specific municipality. These local laws compliment their responsibilities and powers under both state and federal laws. Any local laws passed by Council are designed to ensure that the actions of an individual or group do not have an adverse impact on the rest of the community, and only apply within the municipality in which they are passed.

Aquatic safety signs are regularly inclusive of extensive local prohibitions and permissible actions covering activities such as alcohol use, animal visitation, camping, glassware, and smoking. This is particularly the case at beach locations and inland waterways, where aquatic supervision and enforcement levels are limited, when compared to aquatic facilities.

It is recommended that local laws covering prohibition and permissible activities are included in aquatic safety signs, but that the information is located to ensure it does not take away attention from important water safety warning, prohibition, safe conditions, mandatory actions, or emergency response related graphic symbols and supplementary text.

It is also recommended that the local law graphic symbols and supplementary text content is no larger than the more critical water safety components of the sign. Further, it is recommended that this information is presented on a separate/individual panel, to assist with currency and updating when content items (rules) are changed.

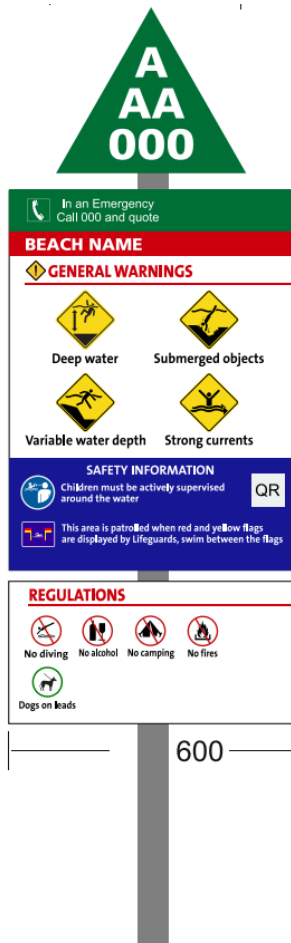
Appendix B Example designs

The importance of effectively placing the aquatic safety signage in appropriate and where it can be viewed without any physical obstruction cannot not be underestimated. Ensuring that review on the intended location of the sign with the viewing distance required will contribute to the effectiveness of the sign when it is installed. The following are key considerations that should be considered in aquatic environments.

The presentation of symbols and supplementary text information is very important to how people understand and react to a safety sign.

- Signage should be clear, consistent and compliant.
- Layout/presentation of information should be consistent across groups of signs.
- Presentation of information should be prioritised based on the identified risk/s.
- Information should be grouped into recognised categories.
- All symbols and supplementary text should be a sufficient size.
- An overall grid structure should be applied to content within the signs.
- Content should be free of marketing, promotional and similar material.
- Supplementary text should be appropriately located beneath/next to the symbol which it is intent to describe/clarify the message.
- Be sited conspicuously within the normal field of vision.
- Care should be taken to avoid the over provision of safety signs.
- Signage should be removed when its function is no longer required.

A successful signage strategy will minimise confusion and anxiety, allowing those visiting aquatic environments to make informed decisions and feel more confident in their knowledge of safety and rules adherence.



These images are draft examples of aquatic safety signage. They should not be used for the sole purpose of signage design and/or manufacture.

Image/figure source: ISO20712-3 (International Organization for Standardization, 2024).

Appendix C LSV signage services

Aquatic Safety Signage Assessments are a one stop shop establishing both current compliance levels and additional requirements of an aquatic environments signage. As an objective risk treatment measure signage is regularly scrutinised following serious aquatic incidents.

An Aquatic Safety Signage Assessment will audit the signage associated with the i) area access, ii) aquatic spaces, iii) new and / or existing design and iv) emergency response. LSV can design, manufacture and deliver signage to ensure full compliance with the Australian Standards, in partnership with key stakeholders.

In addition to signage assessments and recommendation services, LSV can provide supply only signage. Under these circumstances, the level of responsibility that LSV accepts is limited to the supply of the signage based on the information detailed in the order. This includes the signage symbol, layout, colour and production material.

LSV are unable to take responsibility for any orders or installations that fail to comply with the associated Australia Standards or alternative documents listed in the reference section. This includes but is not limited to:

- Signage which fails to suitably reflect the intended risk
- Signage which fails to clearly provide the intended message
- Incorrect signage (text, numeral, symbol) dimensions
- Incorrect signage content selection
- Insufficient quantity of signage
- Insufficient viewing distance provisions
- Incorrect installation of signage
- Insufficient maintenance or review of signage



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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